



Goodness of America

Card Collectors Unite

A police officer in Cleveland, Ohio, stepped in to save the day when another boy stole nine-year-old Bryce's Pokemon card collection. When some of the boy's cards could not be retrieved, Officer Jimmy Grotenrath went home to search for his own card collection to donate it to the little boy.

CNN reported that Bryce spent three years building his collection of trading cards. On May 20, another young boy snatched Bryce's binder that held his treasured collection right out of his hands.

Bryce's parents called the police and Officer Grotenrath arrived on the scene. He and his partner were able to retrieve the majority of Bryce's cards, with the help of some neighborhood children. "Some of the neighborhood kids were actually able to help us locate this boy," Grotenrath told CNN. "We talked to the boy's parents and the parents confronted the boy. He brought the cards back out and handed them over and apologized."

To Bryce's disappointment, some of the cards were missing from the collection. Fortunately, Officer Grotenrath was once a Pokemon card collector himself.

"I knew I had some old Pokemon cards at home," he said. "So I looked in the closet and noticed a binder.... I told my sergeant and lieutenant I had some cards I wanted to give [this boy], so the next day my partner and I went back to his house."

Though Grotenrath did not indicate just how valuable his donated collection was, he did note that there were some first editions and holographics cards, both of which are valued by collectors.

When Grotenrath delivered his cards to Bryce, the two reportedly spent time together looking over their collections.

For Grotenrath, it was a great day. "Anything we can do to put a smile on a citizen's face, is a job well done in our book," he wrote on his Facebook page, along with a photo of him and Bryce.

Cubs for Coping

Twenty-year-old Nicole Javorsky of New York City has paid it forward after a massive show of support from her community inspired her to overcome her struggle with anorexia, the Good News Network reported on May 18.

Javorsky recalled being hospitalized in 2010 at age 14 for anorexia, during which time she was virtually cut off from the outside world, with the exception of her parents.

And though her hospitalization was often lonely, she received stuffed animals as presents from her friends and neighbors, which served as positive reminders that she is loved. "Reminders that there are people in my life and they care about me and want to help me get through this," Javorsky says.

Two years later, Nicole decided that she too would like to provide such reminders to others who are struggling. In 2012, she created Cubs for Coping, a non-profit that makes and supplies teddy bears to children who need them, such as those in homeless shelters, or in hospitals. Thus far, Nicole's charity has donated nearly 400 bears, and it is now partnering with college groups that host bear-making events on campus.



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The Cubs for Coping website explains, “Each teddy bear we donate is unique, just like the people we give them to. Personalized items help people remember that others care about them. We remind young people facing tough times that they are not alone.”

It is Nicole’s hope that she can provide a glimmer of hope and inspiration to those who are in the place where she once was. “I’m not the most qualified person to solve the problems that are out there, and I have a lot to learn. But, I can get involved, add a bit of positivity, make a difference and have fun doing it.”

The Company of Strangers

A couple in Auburn, Massachusetts, provided some solace to the family of a fallen police officer by assuring the family that their loved one was not alone when he perished.

WCVB 5 reported that Auburn Police Officer Ronald Tarentino was fatally shot during a routine traffic stop on May 22. Tammy Lemeioux and her husband were just getting into bed when they heard the gunshots and looked out their window.

According to MassLive, the couple first thought the sound was fireworks, until they saw the officer on the ground. “We opened the windows, we heard him, seen him at the police car on the ground yelling for help, dispatching: ‘I’m down. I’m down. I’ve been shot. I’ve been hit. Help, help. Please help me,’” Lemeioux said.

Tammy and her husband quickly grabbed towels and ran outside to treat the injured officer. “He just kept saying he’s in a lot of pain and I kept telling him, ‘It’s going to be OK. It’s going to be OK. Stay still. Help is on its way,’” she said.

During Officer Tarentino’s final moments, Tammy held his hand.

Tammy and her husband were glad to have been with Tarentino when he needed them. They indicated that they have not been able to sleep since that fateful night as their hearts go out to the officer’s family. “God bless them. I hope they can get through this,” she said. “I just want them to know he was comforted; he wasn’t alone.”

The man responsible for the shooting — Jorge Zambrano — was killed by law enforcement after a long standoff, reported MassLive.

Fire Rescue

Thanks to the intervention of a passerby, a family of six escaped from their burning house on May 24.

An unnamed driver was headed home in San Jose, California, at approximately 2:00 a.m. when he noticed smoke coming from a house, *Mercury News* reported. He stopped his vehicle and knocked on the family’s door until they awoke and exited the house.

The sleeping family was unaware that their house was on fire. They later learned that the fire had originated in the attic.

NBC Bay Area News reported that the family made it out of the house just before the roof partially collapsed.

The driver left the scene before he could be identified, but the San Jose Fire Department recognized the



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important role he played. “It was a great thing on his part to notify the family and get them out of that structure,” Captain Chris Salcido said.

— Raven Clabough



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